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Cooperation, not corporatisation

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Peter Ellingsen has exposed logical consequences made by charities in the past. They have been caught in an identity and service crisis, and have willingly or unwillingly adopted corporate structures and manners.

These corporate structures have been modelled on investor-owned companies, which have introduced a culture clash within charities — between what Ellingsen describes as businesses or benevolent collectives.

The cooperative business model has been ignored by charities. This was an unfortunate decision, for cooperatives are based on principles and ethics that emphasise democracy, self-help and mutual aid.

**David Griffiths, secretary,
Cooperative Federation of Victoria Ltd**